BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

2007-05853/

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007FOR0131-001141
Sept. 17, 2007

Ministry of Forests and Range

PINE BEETLE EFFECTS ON FUTURE TIMBER SUPPLY ANALYZED

VICTORIA – Updated analysis and the latest information on B.C.'s mountain pine beetle infestation is provided in a new timber supply report released today, announced Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman.

"The timber supply picture has changed as the infestation has grown in size and complexity," said Coleman. "This report maps out potential timber supply scenarios and refreshes our data package for planning sustainable forests and communities for the future."

The new report – Timber Supply and the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation in British Columbia: 2007 Update – is a collective analysis of the 20 most affected Timber Supply Areas in the infestation zone. The report is available online at www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle.

It reviews the current and projected state of the infestation, and examines timber supply topics such as how long beetle-attacked wood can be used for sawlogs, opportunities for beetle-wood other than sawlogs, the type of forests at-risk for infestation now and in the future, considerations in setting future cut levels, and potential implications of different harvesting strategies.

Ongoing assessment and analysis of the infestation is needed to ensure timber supply forecasts remain accurate and government, industry, communities and the province's Beetle Action Coalitions have the best possible information for developing beetle management strategies.

"This analysis report will help inform discussions and decisions on the environmental, social and economic issues surrounding the pine beetle epidemic," said Donna Barnett, chair of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition. "It won't be easy, but by continuing to work together at the local, provincial and federal levels, we believe the Cariboo-Chilcotin region and other affected areas will emerge stronger as a result of the challenge."

The Ministry of Forests and Range has also released a Sustaining Communities for the Future backgrounder. This document is a summary of government actions to date to mitigate the potential economic impacts of the beetle epidemic on forestry-dependent communities in the Interior.

Monitoring the effects of the epidemic and salvage harvesting on the long-term timber supply to ensure economic sustainability for communities is part of the provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan. For complete information on the Action Plan, or to download a copy, visit www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle.

-30-

Media contact: Jennifer McLarty
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Forests and Range
250 387-4592

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.